(b) In view of admnistartive convenience.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling out of Petroleum Products from India to Nepal

2071. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum products are being smuggled out of India to Nepal in a regular way over the months and a class of businessmen are profitably exploiting the present crisis in the Indo-Nepal relations; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Government are aware that petroleum products like Petrol, diesel and kerosene are being smuggled into Nepal across the Indo-Nepal border. There is an acute shortage of petroleum products in Nepal consequent on the expiry of the Indo-Nepal Treaty on Trade and Transit on 23rd March, 1989, which has resulted in smuggling of petroleum products from India to Nepal.

(b) The anti-smuggling machinery on the Indo-Nepal border has been strengthened. Co-ordination Committees have been set up by the State Governments of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal for concerned action against smuggling of petroleum products from India to Nepal in the U.P., Bihar and West Bengal Sector.

Discussions at Bankers' meeting held at Srinagar

2072. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total bank advances of Rs. 76,000 crores, including priority sector advances the recovery of almost Rs. 7,000 crores has been held up due to litigations in various courts;

(b) if so, what are the main legal points raised and the number of cases pending for more than 10 years, 5 years and 3 years;

(c) whether this point was raised by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India at the Bankers' meeting held recently in Srinagar and this problem was also discussed there;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals put forward by the Governor of RBI and any other suggestions, which came up during the discussion; and

(e) the details of conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) On the basis of information available, Reserve Bank of India has reported that as on 30th June, 1988, out of the total advances of Rs. 68,295.92 crores of the public sector banks, Rs. 2,416.10 crores and Rs. 556.79 crore respectively pertain to suit filed accounts and decreed debts. The banks provide term loan and working capital as per their norms and banking operations have an element of risk of default. A certain amount of debts warranting litigation thus form part of the normal banking business inspite of system and procedures evolved to ensure safety of funds lent. Banks try to recover their dues by persuasion, failing which by instituting legal proceedings against borrowers/guarantors for enforcing the security available in the account, etc. As regards number of cases pending, information in the manner sought for is not readily available.

Inter-alia, the question of special legal machinery for recovery of large bank overdue loans came up for discussion at a recent meeting of Chief Executives of banks and institutions.